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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: promoting full employment and decent work for all

Statement submitted by To Love Children Educational Foundation International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

1. How does the world collectively take the theme of the forty-sixth session Commission "Full employment and decent work for all" and turn it into a policy that becomes an actuality for all nations? To Love Children (TLC) puts forward the idea that the emphasis should start with economic interdependence among the education and business sectors. This is necessary in order to achieve sustainable educational development in every nation. In addition, all private, government, international nongovernmental organizations, and local nongovernmental organizations need to assist the education sector in working with policy and decision-makers from all nations if we are to spawn a global economy based on sustainable educational development. Globalization both enables us to meet this challenge, as well as highlights the clashes of divergent cultures and belief systems, both political and religious in the education and economic sectors. However, if we are to achieve full employment and decent work for the entire world, we must look beyond our differences and focus on our agreement of universal education as the key to realizing this goal — building sustainable educational development opportunities for both boys and girls.

2. To Love Children has, for example, implemented a policy in our income-generating projects that sustainable education must be part of the equation. Our Poultry Project with Future Victory School- Uganda offered the opportunity for girl children to learn vocational skills in the raising and care of poultry. This program also incorporated a school-to-work program and can be replicated elsewhere in the world. To Love Children's program yielded the double benefit of teaching a career skill and bolstering educational opportunity. The profits of the sale of eggs and poultry are reinvested into sustaining the education and improved added nutrition for the children. Sustainable educational development is a foundation policy idea for economic growth and eliminating poverty. Its most critical beneficiaries include orphans: girls and boys that have been made invisible waiting for a permanent peace in the torn walls of the world.

3. Future Victory School aims to build higher standards of education by a philosophy that cuts across national and economical boundaries. The Mission of Future Victory School is: to act in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child through sustainable education while also serving as a center for equal educational rights to ensure a whole system approach to child development, protection, survival and development of self-reliance. Education at Future Victory School is aimed at promoting local economic prosperity based on United Nations educational and ethical standards. Future Victory School's accomplishments show that the school is poised to expand its success and begin implementation of farther-reaching and effective education—economic linked programs. TLC understands that education and job-acquisition skills are the keys to a developing nation's economic security and influence. By implementing programs to unite the educational and economic sectors in combating the social, technological scientific problems facing developing economies today, TLC hopes to contribute to implementing solutions to some of the pressing issues of globalization in the 21st century.

4. To Love Children aims not only to make schools "knowledge centers" for the community but also act as a gateway bridging the gap between education, opportunity and employment. Children rendered invisible by health, physical challenges, war, local conflicts, lack of clean water, malaria, and the devastating pandemic of HIV/AIDS are victim to but some of the many challenges affecting the African and developing world's work force. In building an African Resource Center and Library in a war zone in Gulu, Northern Uganda, TLC has demonstrated a concrete way that nongovernmental organizations in partnership with all sectors can secure education and opportunity leading to economic security for children.

5. What is needed next is to form a national development policy that is inclusive of the needs, ideas, leadership, and creativity of the local communities that can utilize education and business resources on hand as the first steps towards reaching full employment of the local populace. To Love Children's African Resource Center and Library will include but not be limited to, the following components as requirements for a sustainable educational program that leads to economic opportunity:

1. Practical skills of education and economic sustainable development in addition to academic work.

2. Health and nutrition prevention education.

3. Maintenance of a school's infrastructure based on local available resources.

4. Education on self-sustainability of the environment as the key for maintaining sustainable education and sustainable employment.

5. Collaborative teaching techniques, critical thinking, problem solving practice, along with skills that will be required in the 21st century in order for students to be able to compete globally, and ensure that all children learn tolerance and ethics.

6. A technological infrastructure based on wind and solar power as well as other power sources.

6. Important Questions the World Needs to Consider

1. What economic achievements should a child-centered education target?

2. What role should schools play in order to create a stable economic world?

7. Recommendations for Africa and the developing world in the 21st century

1. Initiatives that are child-centered, inclusive of girl children, and sustainable are the foundation upon which all other economic and social policy needs to build.

2. Take better advantage of the qualitative and quantitative approach to monitor and evaluate policies and interventions already in place.

3. Reach the Millennium Development Goal for universal education that will translate to all children in attaining full employment.

4. A school to work program that allows for vocational education, technical training, scientific literacy, and allowing for both baccalaureate and post graduate studies is essential.

8. Presently, To Love Children is: Assisting local communities in Uganda to support and complement the government's effort to evolve policies and programs in order to reduce unemployment and underemployment amongst HIV/AIDS positive children and girls (women). Promoting productive employment ideas in all sectors of the economy with a Micro Credit finance program called WOMEN that contributes to the acceleration of economic and social development and the reduction of the incidence of poverty.

Summary

9. To Love Children's mission is to create sustainable educational development opportunities for the girl child in the developing world in order to break the cycle of poverty and we stand ready to provide our expertise and resources with any non-governmental, government or intergovernmental organization to bring into the lives of the marginalized children a sustainable educational policy that leads to economic opportunity.

10. External and environmental factors in northern Uganda, as well as many other African nations, have prevented economic expansion, investment and development due to uncertain variables in the social and economic climate. A pandemic of HIV/AIDS, malaria, drought, lack of accessible clean water and ongoing local wars spilling over neighbors' borders have made external aid simply a requisite policy for economic independence. Therefore, initiatives that are child-centered (with inclusion of the female child) are the foundation that economic and social policy can use to create full employment and decent work for all.

11. Integrated policy which is sensitive to local cultural and economic requirements through educational institutions such as The Future Victory School – Uganda and the proposed To Love Children African Resource Center and Library takes a qualitative and quantitative approach to monitor and evaluate the African nation's policy already in place to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Basic or secondary education alone will not meet the intent of this commission's theme of providing decent work for all. A school-to-work program that allows for vocational education and technical and scientific literacy is a step in the right direction for creating sustainable development in developing countries. By integrating private, governmental, INGO and NGO support with existent policy and goals we can surely complete this efficacious transition.

12. To Love Children will publish in the early part of 2008 its Healthy and Smart, a HIV/AIDS Prevention Curriculum for youth as another educational component to ensure a healthy workforce in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa. Each nation is invited in partnering and investing in the distribution to ensure the next generation of African youth and youth elsewhere in the developing world enters the work force healthy and smart.